

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY 4628

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, DA, GE

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES WITH GDR

REF: (A) USBERLIN 2045 (B) BON 17337 (C) BONN 17183

(D) USNATO 6091 (E) STATE 230986 (F) STATE 237043

SUMMARY: PERMREPS DISCUSSED EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES BETWEEN ALLIES AND GDR AT THEIR NOVEMBER 5 LUNCH, AS DID POLADS NOVEMBER 7. U.S.-UK-FRENCH REPS MADE STRONG PITCH FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG ALLIES IN RESISTING GDR REQUESTS. BELGIANS INDICATED THEY WILL ACCEPT GDR MILITARY ATTACHE, BUT WILL NOT SEND ONE TO EAST BERLIN. ITALY, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, AND DENMARK REPORTED THEY ARE STUDYING GDR REQUESTS. NETHEELANDS HAS DECLINED GDR REQUEST. TURKEY, WHOSE AGREEMENT WITH GDR ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ENVISAGES EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES, APPEARS TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS HERE. RECOMMENDATION: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REQUEST THAT BONN GROUP CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF THREE POWER DEMARCHES IN APPROPRIATE CAPITALS TO FOLLOW UP NATO DISCUSSIONS. END RECOMMENDATION. ACTION REQUESTED: LIST OF WARSAW PACT-U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES EXCAHNGES INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

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RANKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 5, U.S., UK AND FRENCH REPS COMPARED REPORTS OF OCTOBER 29 BONN GROUP MEETING ON MATTER OF POSSIBLE

EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES BY NATO STATES WITH GDR WITH VIEW TO PRESENTATION OF COORDINATED VIEWS TO OTHER ALLIES. FRANCE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO TAKE LEAD IN THIS MATTER AND TO DO SO ORALLY AT BOTH PERMREP AND POLADS LEVELS. FRENCH REP TOUCHED BASE WITH FRG DELEGATION, THEN ASKED THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF POLADS BE CONVENED MORNING OF NOVEMBER 7 TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT.

2. AT PERMREPS' NOVEMBER 5 LUNCH, DE ROSE (FRANCE), SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THREE POWERS, URGED ALLIES TO AVOID EXCAHNGES OF MILITARY ATTACHES WITH GDR, AND HE RECOMMENDED AMBASSADORS PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO POLADS NOVEMBER 7 MEETING. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS CONSIDERED OUT OF STEP IN HAVING AGREED TO ACCEPT A MILITARY ATTACHE FROM THE GDR. HE WAS SURE BELGIUM WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION IF IT HAD BEEN ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE U.S., UK AND FRANCE AND THEIR RATIONALE. DE FRETAS CRUZ (PORTUGAL) INDICATED HIS COUNTRY WAS ALSO INCLINING TOWARD ACCEPTING A MILITARY ATTACHE FROM EAST GERMANY.

3. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID THE HAGUE HAD DECIDED NOT TO EXCAHNGE MILITARY ATTACHES WITH THE GDR BECAUSE IT FEARED EAST GERMAN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. HE POINTED OUT BOTH LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS WILL HAVE PROBLEMS IF BELGIANS GO AHEAD WITH THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE GDR BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CONTROLLED INTERNAL FRONTIERS AMONG THE BENELUX COUNTRIES. LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS WOULD THEREFORE BE EXPOSED TO THE SAME ESPIONAGE RISKS TO WHICH THE BELGIANS HAD DECIDED TO EXPOSE THEMSELVES. FISCHBACH (LUXEMBOURG) EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT WITH HIS DUTCH COLLEAGUE.

4. ERALP (TURKEY) REMARKED THAT THE AGREEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND TURKEY ENVISAGES POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES IN THE FUTURE "IF NECESSARY". HE SAID HE WOULD POINT OUT OBJECTIONS RASIED BY THE THREE POWERS TO ANKRA AND WOULD URGE A GO-SLOW POLICY. HE WENT ON TO SAY IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES IF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO SPECIAL COMMITTEE WERE TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS TO WHICH ALLIED NATIONS WILL EXPOSE THEMSELVES BY THE PRESENCE OF EAST GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHES. NOTE: TURKISH DCM INFORMED MISSOFF NOVEMBER 7 THAT ANKARA HAD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR EXCHANGE OF ATTACHES FROM GDR.

5. AT NOVEMBER 7 POLADS MEETING, FRENCH REP (BEAUCHATAUD) LED OFF SAYING HIS GOVERNMENT HAD CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR TO GDR THAT FRANCE DID NOT WISH TO EXCHANGE MILITARY ATTACHES. PARIS HOPED THAT OTHER ALLIES WOULD SUPPORT THIS POSITION, BECAUSE THE PRESENCE OF MILITARY ATTACHES IN EAST BERLIN WOULD NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CITY'S DEMILITARIZED STATUS. IF SOME ALLIES FELT OBLIGED TO ACCEPT A GDR MILITARY ATTACHE, THE THREE POWERS HOPED THEY WOULD NOT SEND ATTACHES TO EAST

BERLIN. FRENCH REP EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY AMONG ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE.

6. U.S. EP (LEDOGAR), DRAWING ON REF E, STRONGLY SUPPORTED FRENCH STATEMENT, AS DID UK REP.

7. ITALIAN REP REPORTED GDR HAD REQUESTED AN EXCHANGE OF MILITARY ATTACHES WITH ITALY. WHILE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF ITALIAN MFA SHARES THREE POWERS' VIEWS, THERE ARE STRONG PRESSURES WITHIN GOVERNMENT TO EXCHANGE WITH GDR AS ITALY DOES WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ITALIAN REP NOTED SOLIDARITY AMONG ALLIES WOULD BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IF FINAL DECISION BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS TO BE IN LINE WITH THREE POWER VIEWS. HE WENT ON TO ASK THAT OTHER ALLIES NOTIFY ITALY IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES IN THEIR POSITION. ITALIAN REP INQUIRED AS TO FRG POSITION.

8. FRG REP REPLIED THAT THE TWO GERMAN STATES PRESENTLY ONLY HAD "REPRESENTATIONS" IN EACH OTHERS' CAPITALS, THAT THE STAFFS OF THESE REPRESENTATIONS DID NOT INCLUDE MILITARY MEN, AND AS FAR AS HE KNEW, FRG HAD NO INTENTION OF EXCHANGING MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES WITH EAST GERMANY.

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L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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9. NORWEGIAN REP SAID THAT A GDR REQUEST WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN OSLO, AND HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD PROBABLY RESPOND THE SAME WAY AS WITH OTHER WARSAW PACT STATES, I.E., TO ACCEPT A GDR ATTACHE BUT NOT TO SEND A NORWEGIAN ATTACHE TO EAST BERLIN. UK REP COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE APPROPRIATE IN DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE TO REPLY TO THE EAST GERMAN REQUEST BY REFUSING A GDR MILITARY ATTACHE ON THE GROUNDS THAT NORWAY HAD NO INTENTION OF RECIPROCATING.

10. BELGIAN REP SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BRUSSELS HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT A GDR MILITARY ATTACHE, IT HAD NO INTENTION OF SENDING A BELGIAN ATTACHE TO EAST BERLIN. IN THIS CONNECTION HE NOTED THE PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN OF BELGIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE, AND IMPLIED THIS MADE BELGIAN CASE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER NON-THREE POWER ALLIES.

11. DANISH REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD AS YET MADE NO FINAL DECISION BUT WERE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO TAKE A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON THE GDR REQUEST. HE ADDED THAT COPENHAGEN HAD NO PRESENT INTENTION OF SENDING A DANISH MILITARY ATTACHE TO EAST BERLIN.
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12. ITALIAN REP ASKED WHAT THE ALLIES' RESPONSE SHOULD BE IF GDR ASKED A NATO COUNTRY TO ACCREDIT A MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE GDR AT A LOCATION OTHER THAN EAST BERLIN. U.S., UK AND FRENCH REPS GAVE PERSONAL OPINIONS THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO THIS TACTIC AND WOULD URGE ALLIES NOT TO ACCEDE TO SUCH AN EAST GERMAN REQUEST. UK EP NOTED THAT A GDR PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE A NEW PRECEDENT AND THUS COULD BE EASILY TURNED DOWN. FRG REP COMMENTED THAT SUCH A GDR PROPOSAL MIGHT CUT BOTH WAYS, AND THE BONN GROUP SHOULD STUDY THE MATTER IF IT EVER AROSE.

13. CANADIAN REP, NOTING THAT ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND GDR MADE ISSUE HYPOTHEICAL FOR THE TIME BEING, ADDED THAT SUCH A GDR REQUEST WOULD PROBABLY BE TREATED BY OTTAWA IN SAME MANNER AS SUCH A REQUEST FROM ANY OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRY.

14. POLADS AGREED TO COMPILE LIST OF WHICH ALLIES EXCHANGE WHAT RANK MILITARY ATTACHES WITH WHICH WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

15. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: FROM ABOVE CONSULTATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT NORWAY AND DENMARK MAY WELL FOLLOW BELGIAN PRECEDENT AND THAT ITALY AND PORTUGAL HAVE ISSUE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. OTHER ALLIES MAY RECEIVE GDR REQUESTS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REQUEST THAT BONN GROUP CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF THREE POWER DEMARCHES IN APPROPRIATE CAPITALS (I.E. ANKARA, ATHENS, COPENHAGEN, LUXEMBOURG, REYKJAVIK, OTTAWA, ROME, OSLO, LISBON) TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE. END COMMENT.

16. ACTION REQUESTED: LIST SHOWING MILITARY ATTACHES EXCHANGED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING RANKS OF SUCH ATTACHES.
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